

Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation Q&A

On Dec. 27, 2020, the President signed into law the Continued Assistance Act which expanded the CARES Act unemployment benefit programs and created the Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program. Claimants filing for regular UI, PEUC, EB, TRA, or DUA benefits and who have earned \$5,000 or more in self-employed net income in the most recent completed tax year may be found eligible to receive an additional \$100 weekly benefit in addition to their existing weekly benefit amount and the \$300 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefit.

The Department of Labor is currently working to implement this program. As more information becomes available, this page will be updated, and the Department will alert claimants by mail and through the website.

Q: How long will the MEUC program pay benefits?

A: The first payable week of MEUC is the week ending January 02, 2021. The last payable week of MEUC is the week ending March 13, 2021. There is no phase-out period for the MEUC program.

Q: What are the eligibility requirements for the MEUC program?

A: A claimant must have earned \$5,000 or more in self-employed net earnings in the most recent completed tax year, and be entitled to at least \$1 of UI, PEUC, EB, TRA, or DUA benefits. This can include entitlements taken for offset or deductions.

Q: How do I apply for the MEUC program?

A: If a UI, PEUC, EB, TRA, or DUA claim has already been established and you feel that you may qualify for the MEUC program, you can send proof of your self-employed earnings to meuc@alaska.gov.

Q: What wage documentation is required to show proof of self-employed wages from the previous tax year?

A: If available, a copy of the income tax return for the most recent completed taxable year prior to your application for regular UI.

Example: If you are filing from a claim that was established in March of 2020, you would need to submit earnings documentation from the year 2019.

If a copy of the tax return is unavailable (because a tax return hasn't been filed), acceptable documentation may include, but is not limited to, pay check stubs, bank receipts, business records, ledgers, contract invoices, and billing statements, but must clearly show your **net** earnings for that year.

Q: How long do I have to submit MEUC documentation?

A: Documentation may be submitted any time while the MEUC program is in effect. The program dates run from the week ending January 2, 2021 through March 13, 2021. MEUC payments may not begin if proof of wages are not submitted.